

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF MOLDOVA ON THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF
CERTAIN CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Moldova, hereafter referred to as Parties,

Desirous of successful mutual cooperation in the fields of culture and cultural heritage of either state,

Convinced that such an Agreement will contribute to the strengthening of contacts between the two states in the field of culture and cultural heritage,

Convinced that each culture has a dignity and a value which must be respected and preserved, and that all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all mankind,

Desiring to enhance the protection of cultural heritage and provide access to the treasures of national and world culture,

Considering that deterioration or disappearance of items of cultural heritage constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world,

Considering that the protection of cultural heritage can be effective only through the organization of cooperation in the field of culture,

Considering the principles of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Each Party will take appropriate steps to protect and preserve the cultural heritage of all national, religious, or ethnic groups (hereafter referred to as "groups") that reside or resided in its territory and were victims of genocide during World War II.

The term "cultural heritage" for the purposes of this Agreement means places of worship, sites of historical significance, monuments, cemeteries and memorials to the dead, as well as archival and other authentic and documentary materials relating thereto.

Article 2

For the implementation of this Agreement the Parties shall cooperate in identifying lists of items that form the cultural heritage, particularly those which are in danger of deterioration or destruction. Either Party may publish such lists.

In accordance with national laws and regulations, the Parties shall cooperate concerning:

- (a) the protection and preservation of their cultural heritage;
- (b) the right to contribute to the protection and preservation of their cultural heritage; and
- (c) the public access thereto.

Article 3

Each Party will ensure that there is no discrimination, in form or in fact, against the cultural heritage of any group referred to in Article 1 or against the nationals of the other Party.

Article 4

In cases where the group concerned, referred to in Article 1, is unable, on its own, to ensure adequate protection and preservation of its cultural heritage, each Party shall take special steps to ensure such protection and preservation of cultural heritage within its territory and shall invite the cooperation of the other Party where assistance is required for this purpose.

Article 5

Properties of cultural heritage, referred to in Article 4, that are of special significance shall be designated in the lists of items of cultural heritage. Such lists shall be publicly announced and communicated to competent federal, or respectively, state and local authorities.

All properties of cultural heritage so designated shall be protected, preserved and marked in the manner stipulated by valid legal internal regulations of either Party. Public access thereto shall be ensured.

Article 6

A Joint Cultural Heritage Commission is hereby established to oversee the operations of the lists referred to in Articles 2 and 5, and to perform such other functions as are delegated to it by the Parties. Each Party shall appoint 3 members of the Commission, who may be assisted by alternates and advisers. Decisions of the Commission shall require the assent of all members. The Parties shall cooperate in supplying the Commission with access to the items of cultural heritage and information necessary for the execution of its responsibilities.

Each Party through its representative on the Joint Cultural Heritage Commission (JCHC) may request that special arrangements be worked out under the procedures of the JCHC to protect and preserve the cultural heritage of groups not covered under Article 1, in cases where such cultural heritage is associated with the cultural heritage abroad of citizens of the requesting Party and is in need for any reason of protection and preservation. The other Party will consider steps, within the scope of its laws and regulations, to respond to the request.

The Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement on the American side. The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Moldova shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement on the Moldovan side. Either Party may, by diplomatic note to the other, change its Executive Agent.

Article 7

This Agreement shall not affect either Party on its rights and obligations stipulated by any other international agreements to which it is a Party.

Article 8

This Agreement shall be implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations of both countries and the availability of funds.

Article 9

Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be solved through negotiations and consultations between the Agents of both Parties.

Article 10

This Agreement shall enter into force upon an exchange of notes by which the Parties inform each other about the fulfillment of their respective constitutional requirements for entry into force.

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of 5 years. It shall be automatically extended for consecutive terms of 5 years if neither of the Parties informs each other, through diplomatic channels, at least 6 months before the expiration of this Agreement, about its intention to terminate this Agreement.

This Agreement may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

DONE this Twentieth day of June 2001, in Washington, in duplicate, in the English and Moldovan languages, each text being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA:**

